7: International Bank N, S-4 (1951) 1952 MH1 Iraq MH1

162 women. The census returns, in fact, record an extraordinarily large excess of women over men in some parts of the country—e.g., 57 percent in the three rural *qadhas* of Muntafiq province—but there is good reason to believe that such figures, while indicative of the true position, are generally exaggerated.

Occupation

162 463 The major occupation is agriculture and animal husbandry. Nearly two thirds of the people live in the rural villages. As handicrafts are rarely found in the villages and only a few people are absorbed by such secondary occupations as trade and transport, it is likely that 85 to 90 percent of the rural population lives directly off the land.

Many of the inhabitants of the smaller and even some of the larger towns are also engaged in agriculture. In Tel Afar, a town of 20,000 in the principal grain-growing region of Mosul province, over three quarters of the male population whose occupation was recorded gave it as agriculture. This, however, is probably exceptional and the proportion would, no doubt, be considerably less than half in many smaller towns. Even in the largest cities, there is a smaller but far from negligible proportion of the population employed in agriculture, principally in the production of vegetables, dates and other fruits or in raising livestock for the city market.

In all, the number of people in families whose income is derived directly from work on the land is probably in the neighborhood of 60 percent of the total population. This method of expressing the percentage is used advisedly. A much higher figure could certainly be given for the number of people occupied since most [464] of the rural population is employed to some extent. Unemployment, as opposed to underemployment, is largely an urban problem. In the rural areas the number of men whose occupation was recorded by the census is often nearly as large as the number over [859 887] 10 years of age. This, no doubt, corresponds closely to the facts, since even young children tend flocks and perform other light work on the land while old men help with such tasks as threshing. [462] Women, too, are an important source of agricultural labor, particularly at harvest time, although this is inadequately reflected in the census.